Radioactive 'hot spots' cool down

By Steve Cahalan
Missourian staff writer

Schweitzer Hall just hasn't been the same since the University 15 years ago adopted uniform procedures for radioactive waste disposal. For 30 years, the old chemistry building was the hottest spot on campus.

"When I went in there once in 1936 with a homemade Geiger counter, the hot spots gave off so much radioactivity that the needle couldn't read it," says Newell Gingrich, physics professor emeritus. "I told some of the chemists about the situation, but some just got upset with me when I did."

Particles of radium and thorium, two naturally radioactive substances, had been scattered about areas of Schweitzer Hall since the 1930s, when internationally known chemistry professor Herman Schlundt was removing the substances from ore. Scientists from around the world ordered the finished product from the University.

For 30 years the particles remained. "There was little to worry about," Gingrich says, "because the total amount of activity was very small, except perhaps in the few hot spots."

To be on the safe side, the University Radioactive Isotope Committee in 1960 decided to dispose of radioactive flooring, pipes and other objects in Schweitzer Hall. The materials were placed in concrete containers and buried in a nearby ravine, says Ardath Emmons, University vice president of research who supervised the disposal.

Insight

Emmons and Gingrich were not surprised by the lax waste disposal procedures at Schweitzer Hall. Disposal procedures at the University were minimal until 1960, athough the volume of waste increased as University scientists began experimenting with radioisotopes in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

Radioisotopes are artificially produced radioactive isotopes. Radioactive isotopes are unstable elements that give off radiation.

Before the isotope committee was formed in the early 1950s, use and disposal of radioactive materials were the responsibilities of the individual departments using them. The small quantities of wastes went down drains and into the city garbage for years after the committee was formed.

"The idea of dumping wastes down the drain didn't bother people," Gingrich says. "I was unable to get the administration interested in better radioactive waste disposal procedures."

Dr. Gwilym Lodwick, head of radiology at the University Medical Center, encountered similar problems when he became committee chairman in 1957. "I think most wastes went down the drain then," he says. During Lodwick's tenure as chairman, the committee took a more active role in supervising disposal.

University radiation safety regulations soon instructed personnel not to dump wastes down drains. After 1960, the University sent its radioactive wastes to a private burial site near Sheffield, Ill.

Much to the delight of Gingrich and Lodwick, in 1959 the University hired its first part-time radiation safety officer. Since 1963, full-time University radiation safety and health physics officers have monitored, transported and disposed of radioactive materials.

The officers have their work cut out for them. This year they will dispose of several tons of solid radioactive wastes such as animal carcasses, radioactive manure, containers and waste paper. Highly radioactive material will be

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Columbia Missourian

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Koreans flee deportation

4-H trainees lose visas

By Lance Heflin
Missourian staff writer

Immigration authorities are seeking seven Korean men who failed to report for departure from Columbia Friday after their visas had been terminated.

Columbia police also are seeking the runaways. Federal warrants have been issued for their arrest.

The men disappeared from their temporary quarters at the All States Motel in Columbia hours before they were scheduled to make the journey that would have returned them to Korea.

They were members of a group of nine Koreans who entered this country as part of the agricultural training program of the National 4-H Foundation.

Columbia is the headquarters for the portion of the Foundation's program that deals with Koreans.

The program sponsors young farmers from foreign countries who wish to come to America to gain agricultural experience that could help them improve their farms and communities in their homelands.

Before leaving their country, they signed contracts in which they agreed to work on American farms for a period of three years and then return to Korea for at least two more years.

However, some of the men have become disenchanted with the goals of the program, claiming they cannot help the smaller farms in their country with the methods they are learning.

A spokesman for the 4-H Foundation said the group arrived in 1974 and worked until a few weeks ago, when they refused to report to host farms and returned to Columbia. Their worker status then was terminated and they were told to leave.

One of the group returned to Korea; another, Yong Il Kong, 26, was arrested in Columbia Tuesday, whereupon he, too, decided to go back to Korea. He is now being held in a Kansas City jail awaiting his journey.

"Let me emphasize that deportation is not a criminal process," said Immigration Officer George Geil. "These people were just here to find a job."

Geil said that even though a warrant is issued, an alien is not considered to have broken any law — he has just failed to meet necessary requirements set by Congress. When the runaway is found, he is given the opportunity to return on his own volition.

The ability to issue a warrant in this instance is unique to the Immigration laws.

The seven missing Koreans now are classified by the U.S. Immigration Service as among the estimated eight million illegal aliens in this country.

"No matter what you may think about this country, it is considered as the place to be," said Geil. "People from all over come here to find work."

The group of Koreans arriving in 1974 was the third Korean group to come to this country under the Foundation's program. Members of the first two groups were permitted to become U.S. citizens if they married Americans.

Since 1974, the newer arrivals' visas have been changed and they now are required to return to their country, even if they are married and have children, a spokesman for the Foundation in Columbia said.

Last spring one of the Koreans named in a warrant worked on a farm owned by the family of Chris Lee, a University student. "The impression that I got," said Lee, "a lot of them came to the U.S. to stay; they didn't intend to go back.

"At that time, many of them were looking for American women to marry; sometimes it kind of got out of hand," he said.

Authorities are uncertain about what the Koreans expect to do.

Ernest Cross was one of the few Columbians to celebrate Veterans Day Tuesday. (Missourian photo by Roger Kurtz)

Veterans Day

It used to be called Armistice Day. And it was celebrated on Nov. 11. Ernest Cross has fond memories of those celebrations years ago when flags waved.

There were no parades and few flags flew above Columbia homes Tuesday. World War I veteran Ernest Cross, 84, of 913 Range Line St., was one of only a few Columbians who displayed an American flag in observance of Veterans Day.

Tuesday evening a Veterans Day program was presented at the Truman Veterans Hospital. It was a variety show put on by Columbia College students. Outside the hospital, however, the only observable difference between Veterans Day and a normal Tuesday was that state offices and most banks were closed.

Cross is concerned about that. He blames the federal government, which designated the last Monday in October as its Veterans Day.

"I think people are just disgusted with having two days," Cross said. "It will be better when we get back to just one day to honor all of our veterans."

Congress has voted to return Veterans Day to Nov. 11, starting in 1977.

Cross recalled the Columbia Armistice Days of 50 years ago, when flags waved from every building along Broadway and parades filled the streets. Even the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 280 had no Veterans Day activities planned this year.

Commander J. W. Phillips of American Legion Post 202 also blames the two-holiday confusion for the lack of activities.

"Everyone feels that they (the federal officials) made a mistake in changing the day. You just can't have as forceful a program when your forces are divided," Phllips said. He believes Veterans Day celebrations will improve when Nov. 11 is the sole "official holiday."

The American Legion held a small program Oct. 27, the 1975 federal Veterans Day, but its official activity was the Tuesday evening program at the hospital. Seventeen other organizations also assisted in sponsoring the presentation.

And on Range Line Street, the 48-star flag Cross' wife bought when their son went to war in 1942 waved in the chilly breeze.

Planning

Unpredictable events make it tough for hog farmers

By James Kane
Missourian staff writer

Livestock chrores and fall harvesting are keeping Thomas Baugh, Hallsville, busy from early morning to late evening. But even so, he has been keeping one eye on developments that may affect prices for his cattle and hogs. And he has been planning for the future.

Planning in farming;is no simple business. Dozens of factors, many of them unpredictable, must be considered. The weather, consumer-reaction to high prices and the plans of other farmers all affect the price Baugh will receive for his product.

Consider hogs, for example. Prices for pork have spiraled as supplies per person have dropped to the lowest level since 1935.

The average price per 45 kilograms (100 pounds) of pork at the seven major markets will be about $51 this year, says Glenn Grimes, University livestock marketing specialist. The previous high was $40.27 in 1973.

"It is probably the best profit year we have ever had," Grimes says.

Prospects for next year are almost as good. Unlike this year, when prices gradually rose to record highs, prices will be highest in the first half and then soften in the second half, Grimes predicts.

Production for the first half will run about 10 per cent below this year's first half. Second half production will be up 10 per cent to 15 per cent. Total production next year will be about 25 kilograms (56 pounds) per person, 0.9 kilograms (two pounds) more than this year.

"This still gives us relatively small supply of pork for 1976," Grimes says. Supplies averaged 30 kilograms (67 pounds) per person over the last five years, or 24 per cent more than this year.

So Baugh plans to expand production in 1976, right?

Wrong. "I had intended to expand my sow herd," says the 28-year-old Baugh, who farms about 400 hectares (1,000 acres) with his father.

But the eye he keeps on marketing clues has picked up a couple of warning signals. Gilts (female hogs that can be butchered or bred to produce more hogs) sold one day for $10 more per 45 kilograms (100 pounds) than barrows (males) at the Mexico livestock sale barn, Baugh says. And the Sentinel Wood Treating Co., Ashland, sold 22 portable buildings for hogs in two months, more than double the number sold in the same period last year.

Baugh says it means the "ins and outers" are buying gilts to get into the hog business. The business runs in a cycle, with many farmers getting into pork production when prices are high and getting out when they are low.

If Baugh holds back gilts to breed now, by the time the hogs come to market it would be September. Then prices probably will be declining.

Baugh says he is near peak production now. Hogs take a lot of management to keep infant mortality rates low and disease under control. Too many hogs would increase management problems and reduce profits — just when profits were declining anyway.

Baugh's plans pretty much follow the recommendations of marketing specialists such as Grimes.

Grimes and Gene Futrell, livestock specialist with Iowa State University at Ames, recommend that farmers maintain or moderately expand production.

"I don't think we will get a quick overexpansion of hogs," Futrell says. Market uncertainties and high grain prices will hold production down.

While it is a good time to expand if it fits into long-range plans, farmers should move cautiously if expanison will cut efficiency, Grimes says.

As long as prices stay high, farmers should raise their hogs to heavier weights — 112 to 117 kilograms (250 to 260 pounds) — unless they sell at a local market that pays less for the heavier hogs, Grimes says. Most hogs are sold at about 101 kilograms (225 pounds).

A good practice, Grimes says, is to delay marketing from May to August, when prices usually are rising, and thereby get a higher price for a heavier hog. But from August to November, when the market price usually is declining, lag-marketing is unlikely to be profitable.

Planning for the future is even more difficult for farmers with beef cattle. There are three steps in the production chain: The cow-calf man raises the calves to about 180 kilograms (300 pounds) and the cattle feeder feeds the

(See THE CATTLE, Page 16)

Retail pork prices may fall

Although retail prices for pork products were high in September and October, consumers can expect to see slightly lower prices through the end of December, Glenn Grimes, University professor of agricultural economics, said Tuesday.

The high prices are the result of inflation and a small supply of hogs, which caused wholesale prices in September and October to reach record highs of about 65 cents per .45 kilogram (1 pound), Grimes said. This caused retail prices to go up.

While demand has remained strong, the higher prices have meant an overall decline in pork consumption, he said. This has caused supply to exceed demand for pork products, and wholesale prices have dropped to about 50 cents per .45 kilogram (1 pound).

Retail prices are dropping and will continue to drop until the end of December, when consumers will have eliminated the backlog of pork products. Hogs again will be in short supply at that time. Consumers will then see pork prices rising in supermarkets throughout January, Grimes said.

A check by the Columbia Missourian of some area supermarkets Tuesday shows that despite the high prices, consumer demand in Columbia apparently has remained steady or has increased since September.

Eddie Sachs, manager of Gerbes' Supermarket, 1810 Paris Road, said sales for all meat products have increased. Sachs said all pork prices are not declining. "Bacon prices have been going down a little while hams have increased," he said.

John Nowell, of Nowell's Supermarket, West Boulevard and Worley Street, also reported somewhat lower pork prices. "They've been falling off. The wholesale on pork is down," he said.

Treva Kintner, University assistant professor of home economics, said the paradox of steady demand for pork despite high prices is due partly to habit. "We're creatures of habit. Some women I've talked to say, 'My husband likes bacon for breakfast, so I'm going to go on buying it.' "

No ticket for UFO

Cleveland policeman says triangular 'vehicle' with red and green lights was moving too fast to stop

CLEVELAND (UPI) — Patrolman Zachary Space doesn't particularly mind giving out tickets, but not to the "vehicle" he says he and others saw early Tuesday.

The "vehicle" was a roughly triangular cluster of red and green lights, one of two such objects Space, other policemen and citizens saw flitting about the predawn sky from about 3:30 a.m. to 4 a.m., according to the police officer.

In a telephone interview Space said, "I was looking for something out of Star Trek," when he went to check out a report about the mysterious vehicle reported about 72 kilometers (45 miles) northeast of Cleveland.

"Off to the west, you could see this light, a red and green glow, moving very slowly. It appeared to stop and there was a brighter white glow. It stayed for a while, and then started moving again.

"I'd call it a triangle of lighting. The top point was one strong point of light. It would have to be awfully large to be seen when you're a mile or two away from it."

Asked if he had ever seen anything of the sort before, Space said firmly, "No. Anything that can move that fast makes you want to scramble away. I wasn't about to pull him over."

He met the persons who first called in the sighting to the Madison Township police. They parked, got out of their cars and watched. They were joined by a Madison Village police officer and a newspaper route man. The five saw two glowing triangles, one to the east and one to the west, Space said.

"There are high-tension wires going through town and one hovered over the towers, about treetop level," Space said. "That's when it glowed white. Then it started to rise and glowed red and green and it went up like a flash — whoosh! — like somebody blew a match out."

"The five of us saw it rise up, disappear, then come back again. We couldn't decide whether it was the same one or another one. Then we heard more radio traffic. A Lake County sheriff's deputy saw something.

"I have a telescope in my unit. It's not very powerful, but I got it out and looked at it. That's when I got the triangular effect."

"The village police car has an aircraft landing light as a spotlight and we shined it at the thing. I was not too crazy about being that close to it — maybe within a quarter mile, it was hard to tell."